

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 28, 2019**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Asai Maschang. Excused: Harry Menta, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Peggy Conversano, Jin Ah Jong, Joseph D'Angeli, Carolina Espin, Katelyn McGirk.

Hearing of Citizens: John Tymon and Tammy Laverty were present just to observe a meeting.

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Stephen Quinn to approve the January 24, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills:

PO 36852 - \$950.00 – Mad Science of Northeast NJ
PO 36972 - \$300.00 – Wildlife Conservation Center
PO 37017 - \$662.00 – Tenafly Nature Center
PO 37018 - \$200.00 – Hudson River Fisherman's Association
PO 37019 - \$300.00 – BSA Troop #3
PO 37020 - \$200.00 – Hackensack Riverkeeper

Correspondence:

- 1) Copy of email dated 2/9/19 from Tammy Laverty to Bergen County Executive Tedesco and County Freeholders thanking them for decision regarding Dino Park
- 2) Letter dated 2/11/19 from Freeholder Thomas Sullivan Re: Opposition to Dino Park – thanking EC for expressing its views in opposition to Dino Park
- 3) Newsletter Deadlines: 2/15, 5/17, 8/16, 10/18
- 4) Email dated 2/27/19 from Nancy Kempel of DEP Re: CSO signs (to be discussed under old business)

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – Steve Quinn will be calling a meeting for the RP Nature Preserve Association to discuss plans for the new trail to be designed. Part of the trail has been laid out by Commissioner Anlian and Steve Quinn but they now have to come up with wading boots because part of the trail is quite wet. They will return to the Nature Preserve properly attired and plot out the rest of the trail. This is to utilize the money from the Open Space Trust Matching Grant for \$200,000, which will bring it up to \$400,000 to provide for the boardwalk and interpretive nature trail in the RP Nature Preserve.

Green Business – There have been no new businesses added since the last meeting. Steve had a busy month and was unable to reach out to Katelyn McGirk regarding the Green Business program. He will do so before next meeting. Leslie Olson said if anyone is aware of any business that should be approached to please let the EC know. There is a new business on Euclid Avenue & Brinkerhoff Street opened by Ted Tabasco. A new beauty salon is opening at 178 Main Street shortly.

Newsletter – The next deadline is May 17. Articles to be written:

- Katelyn McGirk – Green Business Program
- BYOB – if the signs are ready, an article should be written
- Guillermo Lopez-Acosta – Solar Panels

BYOB – Tenafly stores have signs in them saying “BYOB”, which means Bring Your Own *Shopping* Bag. Katelyn McGirk and Jinah Jong were sent a picture of the sign to see if they could come up with a design for the EC. Steve Quinn has not heard further from them and will contact them. Janet Harris wants to help out on implementation of this. She is in charge of collecting the plastic bags for recycling.

Earth Day/Green Fair – May 11 is scheduled for Earth Day. High tide is 3:30 p.m. The Riverkeeper will bring the boat at 2:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. The day will run from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Scheduled shows are:

10:30 a.m. Mad Science – Interactive show
12:00 p.m. Endangered NJ – live animal show

1:00 The Wild Life – live animal show**Bats – past, present and future with NJ's Bat-Man, Joe D'Angeli****2:000 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Dirt on Garbage Booth! Interactive tables, limited number of seats available****3:00 p.m. Tenafly Nature Center – Remarkable Raptors Show****4:00 Reserved for Beekeeper if one is available****Mark Rust will provide continuous music.**

One vendor requested alternate directions in case the tracks are blocked by the train again. Each vendor will be sent directions to enter through Bogota. The EC will ask Commissioner Anlian if a metal sign can be made and hung at the tracks to provide instructions for visitors when the train is blocked. The EC also has 2 sandwich signs it can put out but will need to have the sign made to put on these signs.

Mark and Leslie will write up directions and send them to Steve. Steve will write up a letter to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners requesting a sign be installed by the railroad tracks.

Mark Olson said that he attended Bogota's meeting with Leslie. He said they have talked about having the Green Fair on a separate day but not this year. He doesn't think they have as many people participating as last year. They talked about a couple of changes. They are going to have a container to collect plastic bags. Mark said that maybe the EC could do styrofoam as well.

A note will be added to the flyer to tell people to bring their plastic bags and Styrofoam to Earth Day because there will be collection containers available.

Steve explained on heavy rain events the surface water runoff combines with raw sewage and runs directly into the Hackensack River due to old sewage systems. In several areas, RP, being one of them, there are 6 outflow areas on the western side of RP. Two of them are in the vicinity of Riverfront Park where the EC holds the annual Earth Day event, which includes boating and fishing.

There is a sign that the DEP has put up just this year, in the outflow areas, which have an insignia with a cross through saying no fishing, no boating, no swimming. The problem is that there is a recreational event and encouraging young children to fish in what could very well be, if the sewage outflow is responding to heavy rains, raw sewage in the water if there is fishing and boating/kayaking in the water.

Steve Quinn wrote the engineers, who are responsible for meeting with RP and coaching RP through the plans to discuss the sewage outflow, and address it in upcoming years. They wrote to the DEP asking them for input regarding the EC holding this recreational event at the river edge where these signs are placed. The letter was not extremely helpful in that they replied: "Your concern that some of the advertised activities may not be appropriate at certain times due to the proximity of the CSO outfall pipes and the timing of their last discharge is valid, and is exactly the information that was meant to be provided to the public. The presence or absence of these signs does not change the fact that the CSO outfall pipe(s) is located nearby and has been for quite some time, or that the water quality may be impaired at any time due to a discharge from the CSO(s) as a result of wet weather events. However, it is true that if significant wet weather has not occurred in recent days, the impacts from the CSO discharges on that waterbody have dissipated."

The EC feels if there are big signs saying there are hazardous materials and parents are bringing their children to fish, the EC is really concerned. The EC needs to do something. Although the sign has no legal standing because no ordinance is cited, the spirit of compliance is still there and the EC would be in non-compliance with the message if the event continued as if there were no sign. People on the boat are not immersed in water but might be when there is fishing. The EC needs to think about not having the HRFA conduct the fishing portion of the day.

Mark Olson thinks the EC should write a letter to the Village attorney to get a clarification. Steve thinks that no matter how it is said, the parents will see this big sign and say the EC is endorsing a program with hazardous conditions present. Mark thinks it is up to the Village attorney to get a clearer answer about the sign. He said he will be making the canoe and kayak rack at the location. The Village is in support of these racks and maybe the Village attorney needs to get a clearer answer to solve this. The Wanda Canoe Club will be there. The canoe/kayak rack will be there. The Village attorney needs to find out if they can remain there or must be moved.

Steve said he will speak to Sergio Radossi. He thinks that the right thing to do as far as Earth Day is cancel the fishing portion of the day unless the Village attorney has an answer before the end of March. Asai Maschang said she thinks it is a safety issue at this point. To continue with fishing at a public event is encouraging kids to ignore a sign. This year the

HRFA will be cancelled and Steve will let Sergio know. He will also follow through with the Village counsel to get an answer on this. If the sign is removed before Earth Day or a new sign is installed, the fishing will continue. Steve thinks the fishing will have to be cancelled for this year. A copy of this DEP email from Nancy Kempel will be sent to Tara O'Grady with a cover letter from Steve Quinn.

Steve Quinn said he will contact the DPW to ask them to send out the banner for updating.

thecrayoninitiative.org – The Crayon Initiative collects used and unwanted crayons donated from homes, restaurants, schools and homes across the country, melts them down and remanufactures them, reducing environmental waste. Supplies have been ordered and will arrive in 6-8 week so it can be started before May so RP can get credit for it. It will also be worked into the annual recycling day scheduled for November 15. Dyan Thiemann said she would gladly work on this with the EC.

New Business:

Steve Quinn made a motion, which was seconded by Mark Olson, that the RPEC approve a Resolution Opposing the Construction of the North Bergen Liberty Generating Gas-Fired Power Plant that would occupy about 15 acres of the Meadowlands and of benefit briefly to construction workers and people building and installing the plant but other than that, all of the energy produced by that power plant would be sent over to NY and not benefit the people of NJ; and based on research on other power plant facilities it would be one of the largest and generate toxic materials that would impact the health of the citizens of Bergen County and specifically Ridgefield Park residents.

Steve Quinn read the resolution. A roll call vote was taken:

| MEMBER | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Peggy Conversano | | | | X |
| Jin Ah Jong | | | | X |
| Harry Menta | | | | X |
| Leslie Olson | X | | | |
| Mark Olson | X | | | |
| Linda Quinn | X | | | |
| Stephen Quinn | X | | | |
| G. Lopez Acosta Alternate #1 | | | | X |
| Asai Maschang Alternate #2 | X | | | |

Steve Quinn made a motion, which was seconded by Leslie Olson, to send a letter to the Bergen County Executive, Bergen County Department of Park, all Freeholders, Director of Parks, DEP, Bergen County Audubon Society, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding Saving Bald Eagle "Foraging" Trees in Overpeck County Park" as follows (SQ read the letter in its entirety).

Mark Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Leslie Olson, to change the "I" to "we" urge. A roll call vote was taken.

| ROLL CALL VOTE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Peggy Conversano | | | | X |
| Jin Ah Jong | | | | X |
| Harry Menta | | | | X |
| Leslie Olson | X | | | |
| Mark Olson | X | | | |
| Linda Quinn | X | | | |
| Stephen Quinn | X | | | |
| G. Lopez Acosta Alternate #1 | | | | X |
| Asai Maschang Alternate #2 | X | | | |

At next month's meeting, the EC will discuss water fountains in public buildings that can fill water bottles and show how many plastic bottles it saves. The EC will also discuss milkweed plants/seeds as a handout for Earth Day/Green Fair.

Members are urged to attend March 2 Environmental Training in Fair Lawn. Members must register for this.

The next regular meeting will be March 28, 2019, at 8:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 8:10 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca